



2023 February 27

Henry S. Lowendorf
Greater New Haven Peace Council

In Support of:

House Bill 5673: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN
TAXES AND TAX EQUITY.

**Good day Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and the distinguished
members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:**

My name is Henry Lowendorf. I have lived in New Haven for 48 years.

**I'm a member of the Greater New Haven Peace Council which actually has
members throughout Connecticut. The mission of the Peace Council is
promoting peace abroad and peace at home. I am testifying in strong support
of House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And
Tax Equity.**

**Over half a century ago, in 1967 during the despicable U.S. war on Vietnam,
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., called the U.S. government, "the greatest
purveyor of violence in the world." Sadly he could say the very same thing
today. King spoke to the fact that our government models the very commission
of violence to its citizens in pursuit of its goals. Not just the violence we see in
militarism abroad, but also in militarism at home, the police violence, the
violence with guns on the streets, with assault weapons used to attack
unsuspecting residents. Martin Luther King recognized that our government
daily promotes violence. King spoke directly to the violence of poverty and
inequality, the violence of malnutrition and homelessness, of the violence in
illiteracy and the theft of wages.**

**Referring to the fact that the U.S. government's military budget takes over half
of federal discretionary spending, King stated unequivocally, "A nation that
continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on
programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."**

Well, this nation continues to spend more money year after year on building bombs, tanks and nuclear weapons than on all social programs combined - housing, education, labor, health, environment - all combined.

So why am I saying this to state legislators, who have no direct influence over what the federal government does? The simple reason is that year after year our state of Connecticut unnecessarily maintains inequality, poverty and violence. We live in a state where billionaires and rich corporations sweep up huge amounts of money and pay far less than a fair share of taxes.

To be specific:

- Never, never let anyone ask where the money will come from to ensure that no child lives in poverty in Connecticut, when Connecticut's seven federal legislators and most of their colleagues never ask where the military budget will come from as year after year they vote to spend nearly \$1 trillion to manufacture and deploy killing machines. Why are we silently allowing them to cast this vast treasure to the merchants of death. Follow the money. **Now is the time to move the money to human needs and totally end child poverty in our state.**

- Never, never should our state elected officials ask where the money will come from to guarantee that the more than 20% of residents in our communities will no longer have to forgo food on the table throughout the month, when the billionaires pay lower tax rates than families working two, three, four or more jobs to barely make ends meet. Follow the money. **Now is the time to move the money to totally end hunger in our state.**

- Never, never should anyone ask where the money will come from to guarantee that working families can afford excellent childcare and preschool, that all our public school students have a school librarian, a school nurse and a sufficient number of dedicated teachers in the classroom; to guarantee that our graduates should never have to choose between paying the rent, going deeper in debt, or paying tuition to attend our public colleges and universities. Follow the money. **Now is the time to move the money to ensure free tuition to public colleges, to end the starvation of public schools, and to guarantee quality preschool in our state.**

Dr. King spoke to the need for this beautiful country to end the violence of poverty, inequality and militarism. We have the money. We know where it goes. We have the resources. Now is the time to move it to where it is needed to provide for social uplift that King demanded.

Thank you for your attention.